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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

THE SEMANTICS OF RUSSIAN AND CZECH VERBAL PREFIXES
A COMPARISON

by

LIBUSE JONAS (C)

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

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OF MASTER OF ARTS

IN

SLAVIC LINGUISTICS

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommended to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled The Semantics of Russian and Czech Verbal Prefixes: A Comparison submitted by Libuse Jonas in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

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ABSTRACT

Russian and Czech, like all Slavic languages, extensively use prefixation as a means of word-formation, particularly in the verbal system. Verbal prefixation results in a change of meaning, i.e., the prefixed verbs have a different meaning from the original non-prefixed verbs. Verbal prefixation also results in a change of verbal aspect, i.e., imperfective non-prefixed verbs become perfective with the addition of a verbal prefix. This change does not apply to non-prefixed perfective verbs.

A contrastive analysis of the six most productive verbal prefixes in Russian and Czech, i.e., vy-, za-, po-, raz- (Czech roz-), o-/ob- and s-, confirms the claim that the lexical meaning of prefixed verbs is always different from that of their non-prefixed counterparts. Depending upon the basic lexical meaning of the prefix and the basic lexical meaning of the verb, the changes in meaning can vary from subtle modifications to more significant variations of the basic verb meaning. On the basis of the data presented in this thesis, there appears to be no justification for the claim that some prefixes have a purely grammatical meaning rather than their basic lexical meaning.

The analysis of Russian and Czech verbal prefixation involving the six most productive prefixes also shows some significant differences in the degree of correspondence between the two languages. In the majority of cases, however, there is either

no difference at all, or only a subtle difference, in the semantics of corresponding Russian and Czech prefixes.

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this thesis is to present the semantic differences and similarities of the most productive Russian and Czech verbal prefixes. The semantic differences and similarities of the verbal prefixes of the two Slavic languages are based on a contrastive analysis.

Previous research studies have dealt separately either with the semantics of Russian verbal prefixes, or with the semantics of Czech verbal prefixes. Very few studies have involved a contrastive analysis of the semantics of verbal prefixes in both languages.

In general, prefixation is a specific method of word-formation. Both elements, verbs and prefixes, have their own meanings; but prefixes, in contrast with verbs, are dependent, i.e., they cannot exist by themselves. For example, the Russian verbal prefix ot- (Czech od-) has the meaning 'from'. When attached to a verb, such as nesti (Czech nést), the new verb otnesti (Czech odnést) is formed. The meaning of the new verb is more specific regarding direction: otnesti (Czech odnést) denotes carrying in a direction away from the speaker, 'take away from'.

Prefixation causes not only variation in lexical meaning, but also variation in grammatical meaning. The variation in grammatical meaning is concerned with verbal aspect, namely, an imperfective aspect is changed to a perfective aspect.

The problem arising in connection with prefixation is whether the variations in lexical and grammatical meaning always occur together, or, in other words, whether verbal prefixes always carry lexical and grammatical features together. There is no doubt about the occurrence of a variation in grammatical meaning: it always occurs in the process of prefixation if non-prefixed verbs are imperfective. For example, the verb pit'/pít 'drink' [1] is a non-prefixed imperfective verb which becomes a perfective one in the process of prefixation, i.e., vypit'/vypít 'drink up'. If non-prefixed verbs are already perfective then variation in grammatical meaning does not occur. As an example, consider the verb pustit'/pustit 'let go'. It is a non-prefixed perfective verb which does not change its aspect in the process of prefixation, e.g. vypustit'/vypustit 'let go'. There are also some exceptions when non-prefixed imperfective verbs do not undergo variation in grammatical meaning and keep their imperfective aspects after prefixation. These verbs are loan words from the Old Church Slavic, such as ležat' - nadležat', podležat'; čuvstvovat' - sočuvstvovat', etc.[2]

The question of variation in lexical meaning caused by prefixation have been of interest to linguists for some time,

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[1] Examples used in this thesis are in the order: Russian/Czech 'gloss', if not stated otherwise.

[2] See more examples in V.V. Vinogradov, E.S. Istrina and S.G. Barxudarov, Grammatika russkogo jazyka. Tom I. Moskva: Izdatel'stvo akademii nauk, 1960, pp. 427-8.

and there is a division of opinion among them. One group, including linguists such as V.V. Vinogradov, A.N. Tixonov, and I. Poldauf, assumes that prefixation always causes variation in grammatical meaning but not always variation in lexical meaning. Some verbal prefixes are sometimes held to be means of variation in grammatical meaning only, such as na- in the verb napisat'/napsat 'write'. Thus, adherents of this view would consider certain prefixes as being devoid of lexical meaning altogether, i.e., the so-called "préverbes vides". The other group of linguists, such as A.V. Isačenko, E. Townsend, and Ju.S. Maslov, argues that in addition to grammatical variation, the verbal prefix na- in napisat'/napsat also involves a lexical variation, i.e., the meaning of "a result of an action". [1]

Chapter I of this thesis will be concerned with a discussion of the above two contradictory claims and the reason for adopting the approach taken by A.V. Isačenko and others in this thesis. This chapter will also include a discussion of perfectivization, verbal aspects, and aspectual pairs. A small part of this chapter will be devoted to a discussion of the function of verbal prefixes in word-formation.

Chapter II will give a summary of the investigation into the productivity of Russian and Czech verbal prefixes. A graph of productivity will also be included.

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[1] A.V. Isačenko, Grammatičeskij stroj russkogo jazyka v sopostavlenii s slovackim. Čast' II. Bratislava: Izdatel'stvo Slovackoj akademii nauk, 1960, p. 158.

Chapter III will consist of a semantic comparison of the most productive Russian and Czech verbal prefixes. The comparison will involve the verbal prefixes vy-, za-, po-, raz- (Czech roz-), o-/ob-, s-. The comparison of Russian and Czech verbal prefixes will be carried out on the basis of examples followed by discussion. The meaning of the verbal prefixes of both languages will be briefly summarized after every demonstrated verbal prefix.

In Chapter IV the differences and similarities of Russian and Czech verbal prefixes will be presented and summarized as a result of this study.

Examples, verbal prefixes and their variants are given in orthographic forms. The Russian standard orthography has been transliterated in this thesis.[1] The Czech data are given in the standard Czech orthography.

The bibliography of this thesis has been divided into two parts. The first part, called "Works Cited", contains studies which were a direct contribution to this thesis, especially to the first chapter. The second part, called "Works Consulted", contains studies related to the problem discussed in the thesis.

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[1] The Style Sheet of the Slavic and European Journal was used for transliteration.

CHAPTER I

FUNCTION OF VERBAL PREFIXES

1.1. General

Prefixes can be defined as productive elements. By attaching them to a simple verb (Lat. "verbum simplex")[1] they change it to a new verb with a different meaning. Prefixes are not classified as parts of speech. According to what part of speech they are attached to, there are three types:[2]

1/ prepositional prefixes used in prepositional phrases (e.g. Russ. bezrabotica, i.e. bez raboty)

2/ nominal and adjectival prefixes which are attached to independent nouns or adjectives (e.g. Russ. prajazyk)

3/ verbal prefixes (préverbes) attached to the verbs (e.g. Russ. vyskazat').

The third group, the verbal prefixes, is very important and the most common in speech,[3] therefore this group deserves to be studied more. Thus this thesis deals only with the verbal prefixes.

There are two types of verbal prefixes:[4]

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[1] A simple verb means a verb without any prefix.

[2] Ch.E. Townsend, Russian Word Formation. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1968, p. 20.

[3] N.M. Shanskii, Russian Word Formation. Toronto: Pergamon Press Ltd., 1968, p.119.

[4] Ch.E. Townsend, p. 21.

a/ verbal prefixes with primary meaning of a directional, physical or spatial nature. They are close to the meanings of the corresponding prepositions(e.g.,obojti/obejít 'go around'). The meaning of the prefix ob(o)-/ob(e)- , corresponds to the meaning of the preposition o.

b/ verbal prefixes with one or more abstract meanings which are different from the primary meaning of the corresponding preposition (e.g. objasnit'/objasnit, vysvětlit 'explain'. The abstract meaning of the prefix ob- has nothing common with the corresponding preposition o.

Prefixes are of ancient origin, having been inherited from Common Slavic. Prefixes of Old Church Slavic origin include: voz-, pre-, so-, pred-, črez-, niz-, iz-.[1] A chart can be made to show the Old Church Slavic prefixes (without their variants) and their modern Russian and Czech equivalents.

---

[1] Ch.E. Townsend, pp. 59-60. The author does not consider iz- an exclusively Old Church Slavic prefix. See, however, A.V. Isačenko, p. 148 who does not classify črez- and iz- as Old Church Slavic prefixes.

OCS:	Modern Russian :		Modern Czech :	
voz-	vz-		vz-	
pre-	pere-		pře-	
so-	s-	it is also a preposition	s(e)-	it is also a preposition
pred-	pered-	it is a preposition	před-	corresponds to the preposition 'pred'
niz-	niz-	rare, corresponds to the Russian prefix vy- and s-	---	it does not exist
črez-	čerez-	it is a preposition	přes	it is not a prefix it is a preposition
iz-	vy-		vy-	

Some verbal prefixes of Old Church Slavic origin (voz-, pre-, so-, etc.) are used in modern Russian in their original form but mostly have an abstract or bookish character.

1.2. Classification of Verbal Prefixes

A.V. Isačenko considers a prefix as a morpheme with an independent (i.e., with its own) meaning.[1] For example, the Russian verbs privesti, vyvesti and uvesti have different meanings because of the different meaning of the given prefixes, which are attached here to one and same simple verb vesti 'lead'.

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[1] A.V. Isačenko, p. 148.

According to their function, verbal prefixes can be basically classified into two groups. Linguists differ, however, in their views of classification due to different conceptions of the function of prefixes. While all of them agree on the grammatical function of prefixes, there are considerable differences in their views of the lexical function. One group, e.g., V.V. Vinogradov, A.N. Tixonov, and I. Poldauf, considers some instances of prefixing as purely grammatical and not lexical, as in the example delat'/dělat 'make' - sdelat'/udělat 'make'. In other words, s- and u- in these examples are considered as being empty prefixes (préverbes vides) in the respective languages. On the other hand, another group, e.g., A.V. Isačenko, Ch. E. Townsend, and Ju. S. Maslov, argues that prefixing involves not only changes in grammatical function, but invariably changes in the lexical function as well.

We will discuss first the view held by V.V. Vinogradov and others, and then give reasons for choosing the classification by the second group of linguists in this thesis.

1.3. Préverbes vides

Variation in lexical meaning is defined as that process whereby the basic lexical meaning of a verb is modified by the addition of a prefix. In other words, the compound verb is the sum total of the basic meaning of the verb and the basic meaning of the prefix.

Variation in grammatical meaning implies that the grammatical function is varied, i.e. in aspect.

According to this distinction prefixes are classified into lexical and grammatical ones.[1]

Lexical prefixes are those which, together with a simple verb, form another verb with a new meaning. The imperfective aspect of the original verb is changed to the perfective aspect and because an entirely new verb has been formed and its imperfective aspect is also needed, this is usually done by the help of suffixes. Thus, the secondary imperfective aspect is formed, as for example, in Czech: dělat 'make' - zadělat -zadělávat; psát 'write' - vypsat - vypisovat; or in Russian: pisat' 'write' - vypisat' - vypisyvat'.

Grammatical prefixes, or préverbes vides, cause only a grammatical variation without any change in meaning.[2] In other words, the function of those prefixes is purely grammatical, which means that they change an imperfective verb to a perfective verb without a variation in lexical meaning. The secondary imperfective aspect cannot be usually formed, e.g. the Czech verbs dělat 'make' -

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[1] E. Sekaninová, "Rozdiely v sémantike slovesných predpon v ruštine a slovenčine," Ruský jazyk 6 (1967), pp. 241-2. In her article, E. Sekaninová indicates this classification as the most common among linguists.

[2] The term "préverbes vides" was used in the article M. Vey, "Les préverbes vides en tchèque moderne," Revue des études slaves 29 (1952), pp. 82-107. The Czech translation of this term is "předpony prostě vidové" (English translation "purely aspectual prefixes").

udělat - *udělávat[1] ; psát 'write' - napsat - *napsávat; or the Russian verb pisat' 'write' - napisat' - *napisyvat'.

This approach to verbal prefixes can be found in Grammatika russkogo jazyka[2] in the section dealing with lexical and grammatical prefixes.

The same approach is taken by A.N. Tixonov, perhaps more explicitly. According to him, verbal prefixes have two functions; 1/ they are used in the process of word-formation (slovoobrazovanie);

2/ they are used in flexion (formoobrazovatel'nye predlogi).[3]

On the basis of their function, he distinguishes lexical verbal prefixes - those with word-formation function, and grammatical verbal prefixes[4] - those which are used in flexion. He explains that a verbal stem with a grammatical prefix is not only a repetition of the meaning of the original stem but also a repetition of its grammatical features, which is not characteristic of a verbal stem with a lexical prefix. The above statement is illustrated by the following examples:

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[1] The asterisk denotes incorrect or non-existing forms.

[2] V.V. Vinogradov, E.S. Istrina and S.G. Barxudarov, pp. 576-7.

[3] A.N. Tixonov, "Prefiksal'noe obrazovanie vidovyx form v sovremennom russkom jazyke," Russkij jazyk v škole 4 (1964), pp. 16-22.

[4] He uses the term "čisto vidovye pristavki" (purely aspectual prefixes).

a/ delat' čto (accus.) + gram. prefix s = sdelat' čto (accus.)

b u t

delat' čto (accus.) + lexical prefix na = nadelat' čego (gen.)

b/ stroit' čto (accus.) + gram. prefix po = postroit' čto (accus.)

b u t

stroit' čto (accus.) + lexical prefix na = nastroit' čego (gen.)

A.N. Tixonov also names the grammatical prefixes and shows their productivity. According to him, every grammatical prefix is characterized by its basic meaning and its grammatical features.[1] As an example he uses the prefix po- and some others. The prefix po- forms the perfective aspect of such verbs as verbs of state (or condition) in the meaning of a change of colour, such as Russian pobelet' 'become white'; pozelenet' 'become green' ; or a change of the outer appearance or the physical character of objects, such as Russian poxudet' 'lose flesh'; potolstet' 'grow fat'; povzroslet' 'become mature'.

The Czech linguists F. Kopečný and I. Poldauf, being essentially of the same view as V.V. Vinogradov and A.N. Tixonov, tried to determine which prefixes are "préverbes vides" and have the function of pure perfectivization.

It is interesting to note that I. Poldauf considers

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[1] A.N. Tixonov, p. 18.

the possibility of having several empty prefixes with one and the same verb, but with a gradation in their respective "emptiness". For example, he would argue that the verb brousit 'sharpen' can be perfectivized without a variation in lexical meaning in three ways: nabrousit, obrousit, vybrousit. This approach can clearly be shown to be false by noting the small differences in the meaning of the three verbs, as pointed out, for example by F. Kopečný.[1] The verb nabrousit means 'sharpen', such as nabrousit nůž 'sharpen the knife', obrousit means 'grind off', such as obrousit kámen 'grind off the rock' and vybrousit means 'cut', such as vybrousit křišťál 'cut the crystal'.

1.4. Prefixation as a Derivational Process

A.V. Isačenko's classification of verbal prefixes is different from the classification mentioned above. Considering the lexical meaning of a verb, he divides prefixes into qualifying and modifying. A.V. Isačenko expresses his doubts about the existence of "les préverbes vides" in Slavic languages.[2] Consider, for example, A.V. Isačenko's view on the pair delat'- sdelat'. While Grammatika russkogo jazyka uses this pair as an example

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[1] F. Kopečný, "Dvě nové práce o prostě vidových předponách v češtině," Slovo a slovesnost 17 (1956), pp. 28-35.

I. Poldauf, "Ještě k prostě vidovým předponám v češtině," Slovo a slovesnost 17 (1956), pp. 169-74.

[2] A.V. Isačenko, pp. 155 and 159.

in which these two verbs differ only by their aspect, A.V. Isačenko would indicate their difference also in their meaning, i.e., in a result of the action. He states that the result of the action is not identical with the perfective aspect.[1] If the result of an action indicates the moment of the limited action, this is comparable to the notion of the beginning of the action, which is, as a matter of fact, the moment of the limited action as well. The difference between zagovorit' 'begin to speak' and sdelat' 'make' is that zagovorit' indicates the moment of the beginning of the action, while sdelat' indicates the conclusion and the result of the action. Therefore, it is not logical why a meaning change is assumed for the verb zagovorit', but not for the verb sdelat'.

As distinct from A.N. Tixonov, examples such as belet-pobelet' 'become white', tolstet' - potolstet' 'grow fat', etc., are considered by A.V. Isačenko as instances of what he calls "resultativnaja

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[1] A.V. Isačenko, pp. 157-8.

soveršaemost'".[1]

A.V. Isačenko used the verb učit' 'learn; teach' as an example in order to discuss perfectivization.[2] There is a difference in meaning between the Russian verbs vyučit' and naučit'. As they are not fully synonymous, they cannot be admitted as pure perfective aspectual forms of the imperfective verb učit'. The choice of the prefix na- or vy- depends on the lexical meaning of the simple verb učit'.

---

[1] A.V. Isačenko, pp. 209-222 and 237.
A.V. Isačenko differentiates verbal aspect and soveršaemost' (compare the Czech term "způsob slovesného děje" and the German term "Aktionsart"). Soveršaemost' can be characterized as a semantic modification of an original simple or a prefixed verb. Soveršaemost' is expressed by formal means, i.e. prefixes or suffixes. The basic feature of soveršaemost' is the absence of the corresponding aspectual pairs of the verb. Soveršaemost' cannot be considered a grammatical form of the original verb because it does not form paradigms. The position of soveršaemost' is on the boundary between lexical word-formation and grammatical form-flexion.

In I. Pulkina and E. Zakhava-Nekrasova, Russian (A Practical Grammar with Exercises), Moscow: Progress Publishers, n.d., p. 299, the verbal prefix po- denotes "the completion of the process". Loc. cit. "Imperfective verbs denoting a gradual change in a state or condition (especially a change of colour) form their perfective counterparts denoting the completion of the process by means of the prefix po-." There are also examples such as belet'-pobelet' 'become white', želtet'- poželtet' 'become yellow', krasnet' - pokrasnet' 'turn red'. In this thesis the prefix po- is classified in the semantic group "acquisition of some quality, faculty, property or a gradual change of a state or condition".

[2] A.V. Isačenko, pp. 168-9.

A.V. Isačenko's conclusion about perfectivization is the following.[1] A simple imperfective verb can be changed to a perfective one (i.e. perfectivized) by means of different prefixes. The choice of the prefix depends on the semantic nuance of the simple verb. However it is important to keep in mind that these new verbs with prefixes are not the corresponding perfective forms of the original simple imperfective verbs, but they are new independent verbs - lexemes.

Ch. E. Townsend has basically the same approach to verbal prefixes as A.V. Isačenko.[2] He introduces two types of prefixes, lexical and sublexical: "A lexical prefix introduces a new lexical element, usually related to one of its physical meanings, or an abstract or qualitative meaning derived therefrom." When a new meaning is introduced (in other words, a new verb is formed), there is a necessity to build its corresponding derived imperfective aspect, which these verbs do.

"A sublexical prefix does not introduce a new lexical element but modifies the action in some way, usually with respect to time or intensity." For this type of prefix which modifies the action, A.V. Isačenko uses the term a "modifying prefix". Verbs, containing such prefixes usually do not build derived imperfective verbs, although some of them may. The sublexical prefix is connected with soveršaemost'.

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[1] A.V. Isačenko, p. 172.

[2] Ch. E. Townsend, p. 118.

Here are some examples for both types of prefixes.

Lexical prefixes:

Russian:	English:	Prefix:	Russian:	English:
nesti	carry	pri-	prinesti	bring
vesti	lead	vy-	vyvesti	take out
idti	go	pere-	perejti	cross
bežat'	run	za-	zabežat'	drop in

Sublexical prefixes:

Russian:	English:	Prefix:	Russian:	English:
sidet'	sit	po-	posidet'	sit for a while (action for a short time)
plakat'	cry, weep	za-	zaplakat'	start crying (beginning of the action)
blagodarit'	thank	po-	poblagodarit'	thank (once) (singleness of the action)

Some prefixes can express both lexical and sublexical meanings, i.e. the Russian verb proigrat'- 'lose' (lexical meaning)

- 'play through; over' (sublexical meaning)

In many cases lexical and sublexical meanings are closely related and it is difficult to determine whether a lexical change or a modification of action has taken place. In those cases lexical and sublexical meanings seem to overlap.

As for verbal prefixes, their lexical function occupies an important place. Any prefix changes the meaning of a simple verb. Hence, the prefix serves as a productive element in the process of verb-derivation.[1]

Every simple verb has its own specific meaning different from others. If prefixes are added to a simple verb, its original meaning is specified more. If a simple verb has the perfective aspect, such as the Russian verb pustit' 'let, allow; permit' or the Czech verb skočit 'jump', then prefixes added to the verb do not change its aspect but only the meaning, i.e., Russian spustit' 'let, get down', vypustit' 'let out', Czech vyskočit 'jump up', odskočit 'jump aside', etc. These prefixes have a pure lexical function. However, very often the lexical function of a prefix is combined with a grammatical function, i.e., a change in aspect (imperfective to perfective), such as the Russian verbs čitat' 'read' - pročitat' 'read over', nesti 'carry' - odnesti 'take out' or Czech verbs číst 'read' - přečíst, nest 'carry' - odnést.

A simple verb has its own meaning. Any prefix also has its own meaning. By the process of prefixation both of these elements, a verb and a prefix, are combined. The process of prefixation is connected with word-formation.

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[1] E. Sekaninová, "Rozdiely v sémantike slovesných predpon v ruštine a slovenčine," Ruský jazyk 6 (1967), p. 241.

From the point of view of word-formation, a prefix is one of the "auxiliary morphemes" which serves for the formation of words.[1] One of the methods of word-formation is affixation, i.e. a new word is formed by joining one or more word-forming elements to the stem.

In the process of verbal prefixation, a prefix (called "affix" or "an auxiliary morpheme") is attached to a verbal stem ("lexical morpheme"). Prefixes as auxiliary morphemes can serve as:[2]

a/ derivational morphemes(i.e. they create a new word)

b/ inflectional morphemes (they are a means of grammatical formation)

c/ syncretic morphemes (i.e. combination of derivational and inflectional)

Prefixes occur very often as syncretic morphemes, as in the example of the Russian verb pogovorit' 'begin to speak' where the prefix po- indicates the perfective aspect and at the same time the beginning of the action.

A prefix is always attached either before a stem or immediately before another prefix if there is already one. In this way a prefix differs from a suffix that is attached after a stem. The process of attaching a prefix to a stem is called the prefixal method of word-formation. This is the common method of enlarging the vocabulary in Slavic languages.

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[1] N.M. Shanskii, pp. 110-123.

[2] Ibid., p. 110.

1.5. Summary

From the preceding discussion in Chapter I it follows that verbal prefixes, including their classification, cause ample arguing among linguists. A.V. Isačenko's conception of verbal prefixes seems to be most acceptable. His classification of verbal prefixes into those that qualify and those that modify is governed by semantic considerations. In the example of a qualifying verbal prefix (nesti 'carry' - vynesti 'take out') there is no doubt about the different meaning caused by the prefix vy-. In the other example of a modifying verbal prefix (pisat' 'write' - napisat' 'write') the action of writing was modified which resulted in a narrowing of the original meaning.

It appears, therefore, that this type of analysis is more useful in a contrastive study of two languages whose prefixal systems are very similar, but yet differ in some important respects. Isačenko's general line of argument will therefore be used in this thesis without an attempt to define for each prefix its qualifying or modifying function. On the basis of the data discussed in this thesis, it would appear that there is not a single case of prefixation which would involve a préverbe vide. Thus, all of the productive prefixes of Russian and Czech can clearly be shown to modify the basic lexical meaning of the verb in addition to fulfilling the grammatical function of perfectivization.

CHAPTER II

PRODUCTIVITY OF RUSSIAN AND CZECH VERBAL PREFIXES

For the comparison of the productivity of Russian and Czech verbal prefixes, the Czech-Russian dictionary by K.Horálek, B.Ilek, L.Kopecký was used.[1] All verbs, both simple and prefixed ones, were recorded from this dictionary. From the total amount of Russian and Czech verbs (19,533) simple verbs were separated. Their total number was 1,064, which is only 5.45%. These first figures show that prefixed verbs cover the majority of all verbs in Russian and Czech dictionaries. Then Russian and Czech prefixed verbs were compared and it was found that of the total number of prefixed verbs (18,469) only 5,438 (=29.4%) of Czech and Russian prefixes did not correspond to each other. Of this number (5,438), 4,302 (=79.10%) did not correspond to each other because a prefixed verb was equal to a simple verb in one language and vice versa.

A summary of the investigation is shown in Table 1,2,3 and Figure 1.

Table 1:		Total number:	Percentage:
A.	Total number of Russian and Czech verbs (simple and prefixed)	19,533	100.00 %
	Prefixed verbs (Russian and Czech)	18,469	94.55 %
B.	Russian prefixed verbs	10,755	58.24 %
	Czech prefixed verbs	7,714	41.76 %
C.	The most productive Russian prefix za-..	1,110	10.32 %
	The most productive Czech prefix vy- ...	1,288	16.70 %

[1] K.Horálek, B.Ilek and L.Kopecký, Česko-ruský slovník. Praha: Státní pedagogické nakladatelství, 1958.

The following tables show figures and percentage of Russian and Czech prefixed verbs already arranged according to their productivity.

Table 2:

The order of the Russian verbal prefixes according to their productivity.[1]

Russian prefixes:	Total number:	Percentage:
za-	1,110	10.32 %
o-/ob(o)-	1,003	9.33 %
s-/so-	959	8.92 %
vy-	951	8.84 %
raz-/ras-	835	7.76 %
po-	820	7.62 %
u-	727	6.76 %
pri-	599	5.57 %
pro-	575	5.35 %
ot-	526	4.89 %
na-	524	4.87 %
iz-/is-	473	4.40 %
pere/pre-	454	4.22 %
pod-	366	3.40 %
vz-/voz-	362	3.37 %
v(o)-	274	2.55 %
do-	174	1.62 %
nad-	23	0.21 %

[1] A.V. Isačenko in Grammatičeskij stroj russkogo jazyka ... deals with 18 Russian verbal prefixes (the same as in this thesis). V.V. Vinogradov and coll. in Grammatika russkogo jazyka cover 4 more prefixes (nedo-; niz(o)-/nis-; obez-/obes-; pred-).

Table 3:

The order of the Czech verbal prefixes according to their productivity.

Czech prefixes:	Total number:	Percentage:
vy-	1,288	16.70 %
za-	905	11.74 %
z-	638	8.28 %
u-	633	8.22 %
roz(e)-	530	6.87 %
po-	516	6.69 %
o-/ob(e)-	490	6.35 %
s-/se-	472	6.12 %
na-	393	5.09 %
pro-	341	4.42 %
při-	338	4.38 %
pře-	322	4.17 %
od-	283	3.67 %
do-	166	2.15 %
v-	156	2.02 %
pod-	91	1.17 %
vz-	84	1.08 %
před-	49	0.63 %
nad-	19	0.25 %

This research was helpful in order to select the appropriate Russian and Czech verbal prefixes for further investigation concerning their semantics.

The following graph shows the productivity of Russian and Czech corresponding verbal prefixes in percentages.[1]

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[1] Since neither Russian iz- nor Czech z- have correspondences in the respective languages, they are excluded from the graph.

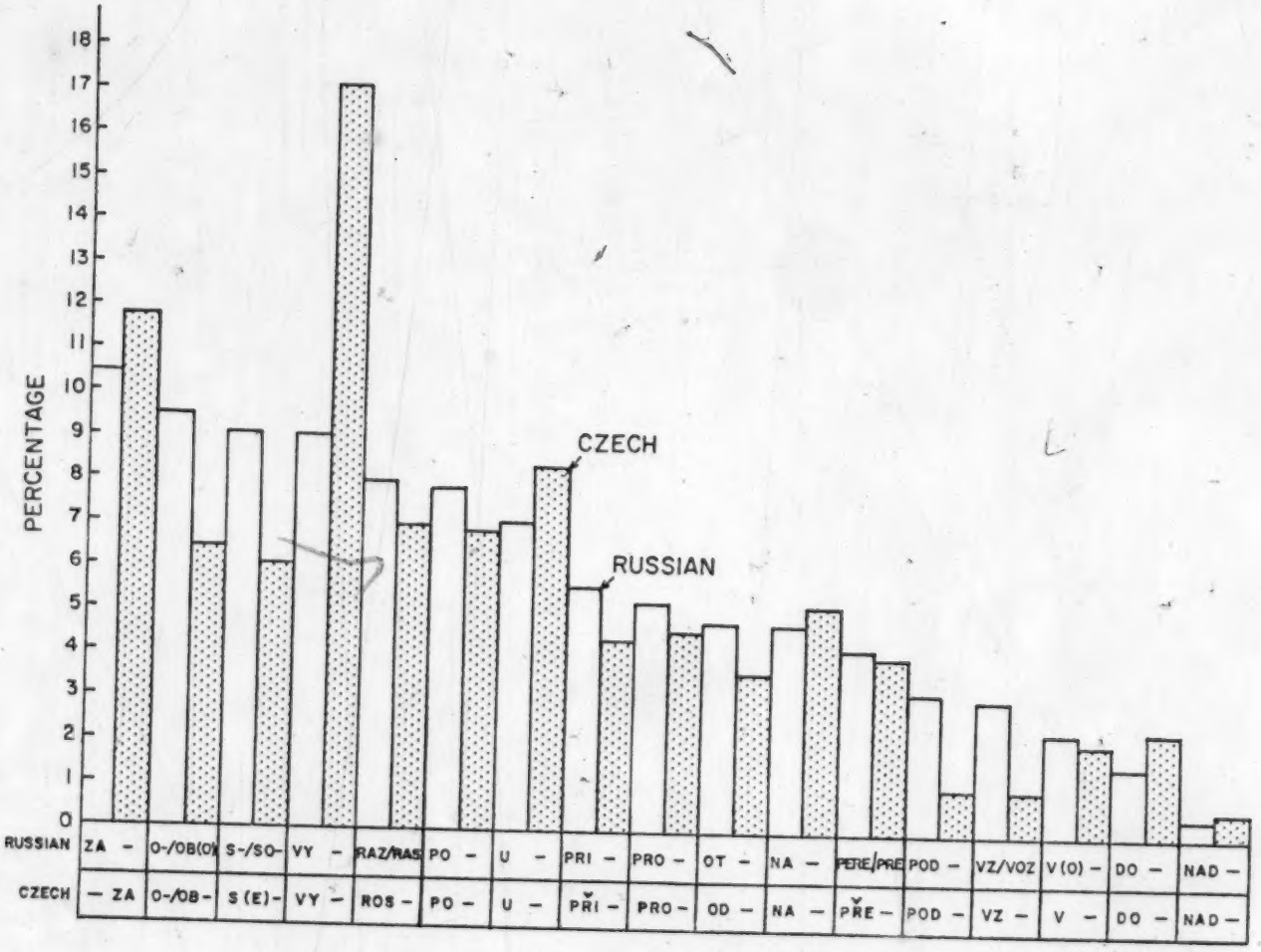

FIGURE 1: GRAPH OF PRODUCTIVITY OF RUSSIAN AND CZECH CORRESPONDING VERBAL PREFIXES.

CHAPTER III

A SEMANTIC COMPARISON OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE RUSSIAN AND CZECH VERBAL PREFIXES

On the basis of productivity of the verbal prefixes from the last chapter, several of the most productive Russian and Czech verbal prefixes were chosen in order to study and compare their semantics. The study and comparison will concern the following Russian and Czech verbal prefixes: vy-, za-, po-, raz- (Czech roz-), o-/ob(o)- (Czech o-/ob(e)-), s-/so- (Czech s-/se-).

3.1. Russian and Czech "vy-"

Semantic groups:

1/ direction of an action from within. Those are verbs of motion and are usually in conjunction with the preposition "out of" (Russian iz, Czech z(e)).

Examples:

vybežat' iz komnaty	vyběhnout z pokoje	run out of the room
vyexat' iz goroda	vyjet z města	go out of the town

2/ direction upwards. The verbs are followed by an object or by an adverb of direction upwards, or both.

Examples:

vydvignut' čto-to	vyzdvihnout něco	raise (up) sth.[1]
vybežat' po lestnice (vverx)	vyběhnout po schodech (nahoru)	run up the staircase

---

[1] sth. is the abbreviation of "something" used in this thesis.

Sometimes, a combination of both meanings, i.e. "the action from within and upwards" can be perceived, e.g. vyletet' iz gnezda/ vyletět z hnízda 'fly(up) from the nest'. In this case, the meaning of the prefix vy- expresses more "direction of the action from within", which is stressed with the preposition iz in Russian, z in Czech.

3/ extraction or removal of an object or its part from its normal position

Examples:

vyrvat' zub	vytrhnout zub	extract the tooth
vybit' okno	vytlouct okno	knock out the window
vyključit' iz gruppy	vyloučit ze skupiny	expel from the group

The verbal prefix vy- is used in both languages in order to express "extraction or removal of an object or its part from its normal position".

4/ completion and exhaustion of an action

Examples:

vyslužit' čto-to	vysloužit si co	obtain sth. for the service
vyprosit' čto-to	vyprosit si co	obtain sth. by begging, weeping

This semantic group uses the verbal prefix vy- in both languages.

5/ completeness of an action brought to the necessary stage. These verbs are intransitive and have the reflexive particle -sja in Russian, and the reflexive (short) pronoun se/si in Czech.

Examples:

vyplakat'sja	vyplakat se	have a good cry
vyspat'sja	vyspat se	have a good sleep

6/ fullness, completeness and result of an action

Examples:

vysušit' bel'e	vysušit (usušit) prádlo	dry clothes
vylečit' bol'nogo	vyléčit nemocného	cure the patient

The verbal prefix vy- is used in Russian and vy- or u- in Czech to express "fullness, completeness and result of an action".

7/ achievement of a result in spite of difficulties

Examples:

vyderžat'	vydržet	stand, bear
vyterpet'	vytrpět	suffer, endure

This semantic group is expressed by the verbal prefix vy- in both languages.

8/ some verbs with the prefix vy- in the figurative meaning

a/	vyigrat'	vyhrát	win (out)
b/	vyxodit'/vyjti iz igry, partii	vystoupit ze hry, ze strany	drop out of the game, party

The meaning is close to the semantic group 3.

c/	vyxodit'/vyjti iz krestjan	pocházet z rolnické rodiny	be of peasant origin

The Russian and Czech phrases of the same meaning do not have the same verbal prefix.

In this figurative meaning the Russian and Czech prefixes are different.

d/ vyletet' iz golovy "vypadnout" z hlavy, zapomenout forget

In colloquial Czech the same prefix vy- is used as in the Russian phrase. This figurative meaning may be explained as "direction of an action from within" where some ideas or thoughts were in somebody's head and they get out of his head, and the result is the figurative meaning "forget".

e/ vypustit' knigu, žurnal (iz tiraži) vytisknout, vydat knihu, časopis publish a book, magazine

Both languages use the same verbal prefix vy-. In this case, perception of "the direction of an action from within" can appear, which can be explained by the fact that the text of a book (or a magazine) is in the press; thus, to get the text out of the press (= to publish) is expressed by the prefix vy-. However, the prefix vy- in this meaning is more abstract in comparison with the examples such as vybežat'/vyběhnout 'run out of' or vyexat'/vyjet 'go out'.

In conclusion, when comparing the verbal prefix vy- in both languages, the basic meaning of this prefix is the same, in most instances even in the figurative meaning. There are some differences, however, e. g. where the

Russian verbal prefix vy- is expressed by other Czech prefixes, such as:

vyvjazat'	upléct, uháčkovat	complete knitting, crocheting
vygnut' rel'sy	ohnout kolejnice	bend the rails
vygorodit' lug	ohradit louku	fence the meadow
vyzolotit'	pozlatit	gild
vymyt' ruki, (posudu)	umýt (si) ruce, nádobí	wash the hands, dishes
vyučit' naizust'	naučit se zpaměti	complete learning by heart

3.2. Russian and Czech "za-"

Semantic groups:

1/ beginning of an action

Examples:

zaplakat'	začít plakat	begin crying
zasmejat'sja	začít se smát	begin laughing
zarabotat'	začít pracovat	begin working

(see note 1 on page 32)

From the given examples it is evident that the Czech verbal prefix za- does not express "beginning of an action". The Czech verbs such as zaplakat, zasmát se with the prefix za- express "a short duration of the action".

The type of verb, expressing "the beginning of an action" with the prefix za-, is limited to a small number of verbs. These are not verbs of motion (e.g. zaplakat' 'begin crying') unless they are verbs of indefinite motion (e.g. zaxodit'

'start going').[1] Otherwise "the beginning of an action" is expressed by auxiliary verbs (the same way as in Czech), e.g. Ona načala čitat'/Ona začala číst 'She has begun to read'.

2/ achievement of the result of an action, or also to fix or make something permanent

Examples:

zakrepit'	upevnit	strengthen, fasten
zatverdet'	utvrdit, zatvrdit	harden
zakupit'	zakoupit	buy
zapisat'	zapsat	write down

The semantic expression of "achievement of the result of an action" is expressed by the verbal prefix za- in Russian but not always in Czech. A possible explanation is that the verbal prefix za- in Czech does not express the notion of an effort in order to achieve the result of an action to the same degree as the prefix u-.[2]

3/ an action is taken to excess. The particle -sja in Russian and the reflexive pronoun se or si in Czech are used.

Examples:

zagovorit'sja	zapovídat se	have a long talk
zasidet'sja	posedět si	sit too long

---

[1] Verbs of indefinite motion denote a movement in many different directions.

[2] The prefix za- in Czech goes with adjectives, e.g. zatvrdlý 'hardened', zatvrzelý 'stubborn', etc.

zarabotat'sja (see note 1 page 32)	zapracovat si	work too much

Some verbs of emotion with the particle -sja in Russian, se/si in Czech also belong to this group. These verbs express an excess of the emotion.

Examples:

zasmotret'sja	zadívat se	gloat upon
zaslušat'sja	zaposlouchat se	listen to
zadumat'sja	zamyslet se	think about
zaljubovat'sja	zamilovat se	fall in love

The meanings of Russian and Czech prefix za-, expressing "an action in excess", are in most cases equivalent to each other.

4/ direction of an action behind an object

Examples:

zajti za dom	zajít za dům	go behind the house; make a detour
zabežat' za gorod	zaběhnout za město	run behind the town

The meanings of Russian and Czech prefix za-, expressing "the direction of an action behind the object" are fully equivalent to each other. Usually the preposition za follows, which reflects the relationship of the preposition za and the same verbal prefix.

5/ direction of an action beyond some limit or boundary

Examples:

zavesti	zavést	bring, lead
zaslat'	zaslat	send
zagnat'	zahnat	drive away

The difference between the last two semantic groups is that the meaning of the fifth group is more abstract than that of the preceding one.

6/ an action brought to an end or completion

Examples:

zakončit'	zakončit, ukončit	finish
zatixnut'	zatichnout, utichnout	calm down
zamerznut'	zamrznout	be frozen
zabit'	zabít	kill

This semantic group is expressed by the verbal prefix za- in both languages, although in Czech there is a possible alternation of the prefix za- and u-.

7/ to close, block, fill. This is a very productive group. The verbs are transitive. The opposite meaning is expressed by the verbal prefix ot- or raz- in Russian (e.g. otnjat' 'take from', raskopat' 'dig' and vy- or o(d)- in Czech (e.g. vybalit 'unwrap', odlepit 'unstick').

Examples:

zakryt'	zavřít, zakrýt	shut, close
zavernut'	zabalit; zahnout	wrap up; turn
zapolnit'	zaplnit	fill up
zanjat'	zajmout	occupy, take up
zakopat'	zakopat	dig in
zakleit'	zalepit	glue

8/ acquisition

Examples:

zaslužit'	zasloužit (si)	deserve
zaxvatit'	zachvátit uchvátit	take, seize

zarabotat'[1]	vydělat si	earn

The Russian verbal prefix za- in the meaning of acquisition does not always correspond to the Czech verbal prefix za-.

9/ to drop in somewhere on the way

Examples:

zajti k komu-to	zajít ke komu	come to see so.[2]
zabežat' k komu-to	zaběhnout ke komu	drop in on so.
zavezti čto-to	zavézt něco	bring sth.

This semantic group is expressed by the verbal prefix za- in both languages.

10/ an action following another action

Examples:

zapit'	zapít	wash down with sth.
zaest'	zajíst	eat after

These verbs are frequent but limited. Both languages use the verbal prefix za- in order to express one action following another action.

---

[1] The prefix za- in the Russian verb zarabotat' can have several meanings. One meaning is "the beginning of an action", which differs from Czech. The other meaning, expressing "the action in excess" corresponds to the Czech verbal prefix za- with the same meaning (i.e. 'to work hard'). Another meaning of the prefix za- belongs to the group of "acquisition", but it is different from the Czech verbal prefix.

[2] so. is the abbreviation of 'someone' in this thesis.

11/ figurative meaning

Example:

zamučit'	umučit	torture (in the meaning to exhaust, tire out)

The possible explanation why the Russian and Czech verbal prefix differs in the figurative meaning is similar to the comment of the semantic group 2 (p. 29), which is that the Czech verbal prefix u- expresses more intensity in the action.

The Russian and Czech verbal prefix za- can be divided into the same semantic groups. The only exception in Czech is the absence of the semantic group expressing "beginning of an action", although this group in Russian is also limited. The verbal prefixes differ in the figurative meaning.

3.3. Russian and Czech "po-"

Semantic groups:

1/ beginning of an action

Examples:

pobežat'	dát se na útěk, rozběhnout se	start to run
poletet'	rozletět se	start flying
poexat'	jet, rozjet se vyrazit	set off, depart
poljubit'[1]	začít milovat	begin to love

[1] In V.V. Vinogradov, Russkij jazyk (Grammatičeskoe učenie o slove). Moskva: Izdatel'stvo Vysšaja škola, 1972, p. 423, the author uses the same example to illustrate the verbal prefix changing the aspect, not the meaning.

The imperfective verbs of motion, denoting continuous movement of one direction (i.e. definite motion), and a few others with the prefix po- can express the gradual "beginning of an action" in Russian, which is totally different from Czech. If the verbal prefix po- is attached to verbs of motion of many directions (i.e. indefinite motion), then the verbs denote a limited action, e.g., poxodit'/chodit chvíli 'walk for a while'; ponosit'/nosit nějakou dobu 'to carry for a while'. In these cases different expressions are used in Czech.

In addition to the verbs of motion, the prefix za- in Russian, also expressing "the beginning of an action", can be affixed to the verbs also of other various basic meanings, such as zagovorit' 'to start talking', zabolet' 'to begin to ail', etc.

In Czech the meaning of "the beginning of an action" can be expressed by the verb začít 'to begin' plus a verb of motion, or by a simple verb, or a verb with another prefix, or, finally, by another phrase.

However, there is a difference in the meaning of "the beginning of an action" expressed by the prefix po- in the Russian verbs such as pobežat', poexat'. The meaning is not the same as in the Russian phrases načat' bežat', stat' exat'. F.F. Fortunatov[1] defines the meaning of the prefix po- as an achievement of

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[1] F.F. Fortunatov, in V.V. Vinogradov, Russkij jazyk. Učpedgiz, 1947, p. 519. Quoted here from A. Hofman, "Význam a používání tvarů sloves s předponou 'po-'," Ruský jazyk 4 (1971), p. 128.

the result in the process of the beginning of an action. This means that the verbs pobežat', poexat' do not express the beginning of the movement continuing for a certain period as is the case in načat',stat' bežat' 'to start running' or in the case of the prefix za- in the Russian verb zaxodit' 'begin to walk', but the shade of the meaning corresponding to the Czech prefix roz- such as in the Czech verbs rozběhnout se ' start running', rozjet se 'start driving'.

The verbal prefix po-, expressing in addition future tense, exists in both Russian and Czech. The Czech forms such as pobežím 'I'll run', pojedu 'I'll drive', ponesu 'I'll carry', etc., are imperfective verbs denoting a continuous action in the future, which other imperfective verbs express by the help of the composed future form, i.e., budu psát 'I shall write', budu pracovat 'I shall work', etc. The Russian equivalents to the Czech forms poběžím, pojedu, etc., are not the forms pobegu, poedu but budu bežat', budu exat'. The following examples will show the differences.

Ja pobegu tuda.	Rozběhnu se tam.	I shall start running there (= beginning of the action).
Ja budu bežat' vse vremja.	Pobežím (= budu běžet) celou dobu.	I'll run the whole time (= continuous action in the future).

2/ to do something for a short time or to a diminutive or limited extent, a little

Examples:

posidet'	posedět	sit for a while
pogovorit'	popovídat si	have a talk
poplakat'	poplakat (si)	have a cry
poveselit'sja	obveselit se, pobavit se	amuse oneself a little

The same meaning can be expressed by the prefix po- if it is attached to an already prefixed perfective verb, such as:

porazvleč'[1]	poobveselit se (pobavit se)	amuse oneself a little

In the Czech verb pobavit se the prefix po- expresses any duration of time, i.e. pobavit se chvilku 'to amuse oneself for a short time', as well as pobavit se dlouho 'to amuse oneself for a long time, and any extent, i.e. pobavit se dobře/špatně 'to amuse oneself well/badly'.

Some Czech verbs belonging to this semantic group can belong to other semantic group as well (see group 8, page 39) with a difference in the duration of an action. The short or long duration of an action is evident from the given situation, by addition of an adverb or adverbial phrase, e.g.

Posedím tady (na) chvilku.	I'll sit here for a moment.
Ona (si) poseděla tady pěknou chvíli.	She has been sitting here for rather a long time.

---

[1] A.V. Isačenko classifies this example as "smjagčitel'naja soveršaemost'". See his Grammatičeskij stroj russkogo jazyka..., p. 239.

3/ a repeated action; to do something from time to time or with diminished intensity

Examples:

pozvanivat'	popozvánět	cling from time to time
poxaživat'	popocházet	walk for a while
pokrikivat'	pokřikovat	shout (repeatadly)

In Russian this lexical group is expressed by the prefix po- and the suffix -yva/-iva (which must always co-occur). The prefix po- can also be attached to verbs of indefinite motion. Similarly, in Czech, the verbs with the meaning of "repetition of an action" or "an action from time to time", are expressed by the verbal prefix po- which is very often repeated and attached to the form of an imperfective verb. The repeated Czech verbal prefix po- in imperfective verbs such as popojít, popošít, etc., as distinct from Russian, means "very little".

4/ distribution

Examples:

podelit'	podělit	divide
podarit'	podarovat	gift

Both languages use the verbal prefix po- to express the meaning of distribution.

5/ to spread out on the surface

Examples:

polit'	polít	water
pomazat	pomazat	spread out
posypat'	posypat	sprinkle

This lexical group is expressed by the prefix po- in both languages but includes a limited number of verbs.

6/ an action brought to an end

Examples:

pobrit'	oholit	shave up
postroit'	postavit vystavět	build up
poblagodarit'[1]	poděkovat	express thanks

The semantic group "an action brought to the end" is expressed by verbal prefix po- in Russian. This group is expressed by prefixes po-, o-, vy- in Czech.

7/ acquisition of some quality, faculty, property or a gradual change of a state or condition[2]

Examples:

poblednet'[3]	poblednout	become slightly pale
postaret'	zestárnout	grow old
pokrasnet'	zčervenat	become red
pogasnut'	pohasnout	go out (e.g., of a fire)

The Czech verbal prefix po- does not always express a change of a state. The prefix po- in this meaning alternates with the verbal prefix z(e)-.

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[1] In N.Ju. Švedova, Grammatika sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo jazyka, Moskva: Izdatel'stvo Nauka, 1970, p. 267, the author uses this example as an example of the verb denoting "the finished action" (actually the same semantic group as in this thesis). On the other hand, V.V. Vinogradov, Russkij jazyk, p. 423, uses the example "poblagodarit'" as an illustration of the verbal prefix po- in a "pure aspectual" function.

[2] V.V. Vinogradov, Grammatika russkogo jazyka and N.Ju. Švedova, Grammatika sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo jazyka do not deal with this semantic group.

[3] V.V. Vinogradov, Russkij jazyk, p. 423, uses this example with the verbal prefix po- as an illustration of the prefix in a grammatical function.

8/ to do something for a longer time (to someone's satisfaction)

Only Czech verbs are included in this lexical group. The Russian verbs such as poletat' 'to fly for a little time', pogovorit' 'to talk for a while', etc., always mean "a short duration " (see group 2, page 36).[1]

Examples:

---	poležet si	lie down for a longer time
---	pohovořit si	have a talk

The meanings of the Russian and Czech verbal prefix po- differ more substantially than was the case for the prefixes vy- and za-.

3.4. Russian "raz-(ras-)/ roz-(ros-)"; Czech "roz(e)-"

Semantic groups:

1/ beginning of an intensive action

Examples:

razaxat'sja	rozvzdychat se	break into a sigh
rasšumet'sja	rozšumět se	get noisy
rasplakat'sja	rozplakat se	burst into a cry
rassmejat'sja	rozesmát se	burst out laughing

To this group belong mostly acoustic verbs. Both in Russian and Czech they are always used with the reflexive particle.

---

[1] The meaning of po- here can also be rendered by vy-, as in vyléčit se, vyležet se, vyřádit se.

2/ achievement of high intensity, growth or excess

Examples:

rastočit'	roztočit	squander
razžeč'	rozžehnout roznítit	kindle
rastoptat'	rozšlapat	trample, crash
razbolet'sja	rozbolet se	become very ill (painful)

This semantic group is closely connected with the preceding one where the action starts from its beginning and is brought to its result or achievement of high intensity. This is a large group.

3/ a positive solution to a complicated situation

Examples:

raz"jasnit'	rozjasnit (objasnit)	be cleared up, explained
razrešit'	rozřešit	settle
rasšifrovat'	rozšifrovat	deciphered

The Russian verbal prefix raz- and Czech roz- are used to express "a positive solution to a complicated situation".

4/ to spread on the surface into various directions

Examples:

razbrosat'	rozházet	throw about, scatter about
razmesti	rozmést	disperse, scatter, spread about
razmazat'	rozmazat	spread (over)
rassypat'	rozsypat	scatter, spill

razlit'(po polu)[1] rozlít(po zemi) spill (over the floor)

Both languages use the verbal prefix raz-/roz- to express the meaning "to spread on the surface into various directions". As distinct from the lexical group 6, page 41, this lexical group usually requires a surface for an action.

5/ an action signifying division of an object into parts (opposite of the verbal prefix s-).

Examples:

razrubit'	rozštípat	cut into pieces
razbit'	rozbít	break
razdelit'	rozdělit	divide

This semantic group is expressed by the verbal prefix raz- in Russian, roz- in Czech.

6/ an action aimed at different directions (all over)

This lexical group often includes verbs of motion denoting an action starting from one point and aimed at different directions.

Examples:

razbežat'sja	rozběhnout se	run up
razojtis'	rozejít se	disperse, go away
razletet'sja	rozletět se	scatter (in the air) (fly away)

In Czech the verbal prefix roz- with verbs of motion also denotes "the beginning of an action". Consider the following Czech examples:

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[1] In other contexts, such as razlit' po stakanam/ rozlít do sklenic 'to pour into the glasses', the verb razlit'/rozlít 'pour' belongs to the semantic group denoting "distribution" (see group 6a, page 42).

A/ Rozběhl se. - 'He started running.'

The verb of motion rozběhl expresses:

a/ beginning of the action

together with b/ one way direction

B/ Děti se rozběhly na všechny strany. - 'The children ran into all directions.'

The verb of motion rozběhly expresses:

a/ beginning of the action

b/ many directions

In the second example "the action of many directions" is emphasized more than "the beginning of the action".

6a/ The meaning of "distribution" can be considered a lexical subgroup of group 6. The difference is that the meaning of distribution is limited, i.e., there is a definite place of the finished action.

Examples:

rassadit'	rozesadit	separate; seat so.,offer seats
razmestit'	rozmístit	place, accommodate
razlit' po stakanam[1]	rozlít do sklenic	pour into glasses
razložit'	rozložit	distribute

The meanings of lexical groups 6 and 6a are sometimes very close to each other as can be noticed from the following examples: Žurnaly razloženy na polke./Časopisy jsou rozloženy (in the meaning "uspořádány") na polici. 'The magazines are assorted

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[1] The meaning of this example depends on the context (see semantic group 4, page 40-41).

(arranged) on the shelf.' The meaning of the verb razloženy/ rozloženy is 'organized; put in an order'.

Ego igruški razloženy po polu./Jeho hračky jsou rozloženy (in the meaning "roztahané") po podlaze. 'His toys are spread all over on the floor' (meaning, in all directions, without any order).

7/ to annul an action (which had been done before)

The verb with the prefix raz-/roz- is in opposition to the verbs with the prefix of the opposite meaning, i.e. za-, s-, po-. etc.

Examples:

razdumat'	rozmyslet se	'change one's mind	vs.	zadumat'	pomyslet, zamyslet se
razljubit'	přestat milovat	'stop loving'	vs.	poljubit'	zamilovat se

8/ to open, discover sth. that was closed, covered

Examples:

razvjazat'	rozvázat	untie
raskryt'	otkrýt, otevřít, odhalit, rozevřít	open, uncover, reveal
razvernut'	rozbalit rozvinout otevřít	unfold, unwrap, open

In conclusion, the Russian verbal prefix raz- (with his variants) and the Czech prefix roz(e)- can generally be included in the same lexical groups.

3.5. Russian "o-/ob(o)-";[1] Czech "o-/ob(e)-"

The verbal prefixes o- and ob- can serve as:

a/ variants of one prefix, e.g. the Russian verbs ogorodit'-obgorodit' 'to fence in', or the Czech example ovázat - obvázat 'to tie round, bind', or

b/ two different independent prefixes forming different words, such as the Russian verbs osudit' 'to condemn' and obsudit' 'to discuss'; or osadit' 'to (be) siege' and obsadit' 'to plant with'.[2]

In Czech the choice of the prefix o- and ob- very often depends on the necessity to stress the action (where ob- is stronger in meaning).[3]

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[1] In N.Ju. Švedova, Grammatika sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo jazyka, the verbal prefixes o- and ob- are treated separately as two independent verbal prefixes.

[2] From the preceding examples it is evident that the Russian verbal prefix ob- is semantically ambiguous. The meanings of the prefixes o- and ob- are identical except for the two meanings of ob- which are not shared by o-, i.e."an action surpassing another action", e.g. obskakat' 'gallop around' and "an action causing damage, loss to so.", e.g. obsčitat' 'to cheat in counting', see also group 7, p. 48 . Otherwise, see N.Ju. Švedova, Grammatika sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo jazyka, p. 263.

[3] Phonologically ob- must appear as o- before b, e.g. oběhnout, not *obběhnout. See V. Šmilauer, Novočeské tvoření slov. Praha: Státní pedagogické nakladatelství, 1971, p. 170.

Semantic groups:

1/ direction of an action around an object or to pass a person or an object. This lexical group includes mainly verbs of motion.

Examples:

obletet'	obletět; (pro)letet mimo	fly around, passing
obojti	obejít	go around
obstupit'	obklopit, obklíčit	surround
osmotret'[1]	obhlédnout	look around, about

In both languages the verbal prefix o-/ob- can express the meaning "direction of an action around and object or to pass a person or an object".

2/ an action is done carefully, in detail

Examples:

osmotret'[1]	prohlédnout	inspect
opisat'	popsat	describe
obdumat'	promyslet	consider, think over
obsudit'	projednat	discuss, talk over

The given examples show that the Russian verbal prefix o-/ob- with the meaning "a carefully done action" corresponds mostly to the Czech verbal prefix pro-. This prefix in Czech is stronger in the given meaning.

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[1] The Russian verb osmotret' in the meaning 'to look around' is translated into Czech with the verbal prefix ob- (obhlédnout), but in the meaning 'to inspect sth.' is translated with another verbal prefix, i.e. pro- (prohlédnout).

3/ removal of the external part of an object

Examples:

očistit'	očistit	clean
oblupit'	oloupat	peal off
obrezat'	okrájet, ořezat uřezat	cut off, trim
oblomit'	ulomit, odlomit	cut off
oborvat'	utrhnout, odtrhnout	tear off

The verbal prefix ot- in Russian has the same meaning, i.e. "removal of the external part of an object". The slight difference between those two verbal prefixes is that o-/ob- denotes that removal is spread over the whole object while ot- denotes only the fact of the removal.[1] In Czech the fact of the removal is expressed by the verbal prefix u-. The verbal prefix od- denotes "to remove a part from the whole object".

4/ covering the surface of an object

Examples:

obit' derevom	obít dřevem	cover with wood
okleit' bumagoj	o(b)lepit papírem	glue over with the paper
obvjazat' ranu	o(b)vázat ránu	dress the wound
obložit'[2]	obložit	cover with/around
obledmet'	zamrznout (pokrýt ledem)	cover with ice
okropit'	pokropit, zalít, polít vodou	water (= cover with water)

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[1] J. Kohout, "Ruská slovesná předpona o-, ob- (obo-) a její české ekvivalenty," Ruský jazyk 2 (1954), p. 68.

[2] See also semantic group 1, page 45.

Besides o-/ob-, Czech also uses the verbal prefixes za- and po- in the same meaning "covering the surface of an object".

This lexical group is closely connected with lexical group 1. Sometimes, a combination of both groups is possible, e.g. obvjazat' ranu/o(b)vázat ránu 'to dress the wound', means that the surface (= the wound) is covered (= lexical group 4) in the direction around (= lexical group 1).

5/ a change of an object or a person

Examples:

okamenet'	zkamenět	petrify
osušit'	osušit, usušit	dry
oščastlivit'	obšťastnit	make happy

Beside the verbal prefix o-, Czech uses other verbal prefixes (z-, za-, u-) to express "a change of an object or a person".

6/ to be provided with

Examples:

ozelenit'	osázet zelení	plant trees and shrubs
obogatit'	obohatit	enrich
oblesnit'	zalesnit	provide with trees

This semantic group is expressed by the verbal prefix o-/ob- in Russian. In Czech the prefix o-/ob- alternates with the prefix za-.

7/ an action is done badly or in a pejorative sense

Examples:

obdumat'	oklamat	deceive
obdelit'	ošidit (dělením)	cheat in sharing
obvesit'	ošidit (vážením)	cheat in weighing

Some other verbs with the prefix o- and the reflexive particle.

ogovorit'sja	přeříci se	make a slip in speaking
ošibit'sja	zmýlit se	err
oslyšat'sja	přeslechnout se	hear amiss

In Czech more verbal prefixes (o-, pře, z-) alternate in order to express "an action is done badly or in a pejorative sense".

8/ to express predomination

Examples:

obygrat'	obehrát	beat/win
obgonjat'	předhánět	outstrip
ob"exat'	předhonit předjet	overtake

In the Russian language the verbal prefix ob- is synonymous to the prefix pere- in the meaning "to predominate". In the Czech language the verbal prefixes ob- or před- (or pře-) alternate but před- seem to be more common.

9/ an excessive action. This group is limited but frequent. The verbs occur very often with the reflexive particles.

Examples:

opit'sja	opít se	drink too much
ob"est'sja	přejíst se	overeat
obkormit'	překrmit	overfeed
obšit'sja	našít na sebe	make lots of clothes (for oneself)

Apart from o-, Czech uses the verbal prefixes pře- or na-. The verbal prefix na- usually denotes a required excessive action.[1]

10/ an action is spread over several objects

Examples:

obdarit'	obdařit	present gifts
oprosit' svidetelej	otázat se svědků	interrogate, examine the witnesses
obegat' druzej	obíhat přátele	run from one friend to another one

This semantic group is expressed by the verbal prefix o-/ob- in both languages.

From all the preceding examples concerning the verbal prefix o-/ob(o)-, (Czech o-/ob(e)-), it is evident that not all lexical groups of the Russian verbal prefix o-/ob(o)- are identical with the Czech prefix o-/ob(e)-. Czech uses a different verbal prefix, another verb, or a phrase to express certain lexical groups of the Russian verbal prefix o-/ob(o)-.

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[1] J. Kohout, "Ruská slovesná předpona o-, ob- (obo-) a její české ekvivalenty," Ruský jazyk 4 (1954), p. 113.

3.6. Russian "s-/so-"; Czech "s-/se-"

Semantic groups:

1/ an action in the direction downwards or from the surface down. The verbal prefix s- of this semantic group stands in opposition to the Russian and Czech verbal prefix vz- or vy-.

Examples:

sojti	sejít	go down
spustit'sja	spustit se	descend
sbrosit'	shodit	throw down
snesti (vniz)[1]	snést (dolů)	bring down

Both languages use the verbal prefix s(o)- (Czech s(e)-) in order to express "an action in the direction downwards or from the surface down".

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[1] The verb snesti/snést with the verbal prefix s- can be classified into two main lexical groups, i.e. "an action in the direction downwards", e.g. snesti vniz/snést dolů 'to fetch/bring down', or into the lexical group "to put sth. together", e.g. snesti na odno mesto/snést na jedno místo 'to bring together on one place'. The figurative meaning of this verb is 'to bear',e.g. snesti bol'/snést bolest 'to bear/ stand the pain'. Another figurative meaning of this verb is "to put up with". With the reflexive particle (Russian -sja , Czech se/si) and often in the imperfective form, this verb denotes the figurative meaning "together", e.g. Oni snosjatsja vzaimno xorošo/Dobře se vzájemně snáší 'They are getting along well together'.

2/ away, off(from); removal from the surface

Examples:

snjat'	sejmout	take off
smesti	smést	sweep away
steret'	setřít	wipe off

This semantic group is expressed by the verbal prefix s(o)- in Russian, s(e)- in Czech.

3/ to put something together

Examples:

snesti[1]	snést	bring together
složit'	složit	put together
sobrat'	sebrat, shromáždit	collect, gather
sorganizovat'	zorganisovat	organize (together)
slepit	slepit	glue together

This is a large and frequent lexical group common to both languages, Russian and Czech. The verbs with the Russian verbal prefix s-/so-, Czech s-/se- and the reflexive particle have a reciprocal meaning.

Examples:

sojtis'	sejít se	get/meet together
sobrat'sja	shromáždit se	gather
soglasit'sja	shodnout se	to agree(together)

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[1] See the footnote 2, page 50.

4/ comparison, confrontation. This is relatively a small group.

Examples:

sravnit'	srovnat (porovnat)	compare
sličit'	srovnat	collate (with)
sverit'	srovnat	collate

The verbal prefix s- in both languages carries the meaning "comparison, confrontation".

5/ the result of an action

Examples:

smjagčit'	změkčit	soften
sokratit'	zkrátit	shorten
skrutit'	zkroutit	roll, twist

From the given examples, it can be seen that the Russian verbal prefix s-/so- expressing "the result of an action" corresponds to the Czech verbal prefix z-.

The other lexical groups of the verbal prefix s- are common to both languages.

IV. C O N C L U S I O N

In conclusion, the results obtained from the analysis in the third chapter may be summarized as follows:

1/ The usefulness of A.V. Isačenko's classification of verbal prefixes as discussed in Chapter I was demonstrated on the basis of the six most productive prefixes of Russian and Czech in the sense that not a single instance of a préverbe vide was found among them.

2/ When comparing Russian and Czech examples within the various semantic groups, the semantics of the Russian and Czech verbal prefixes can be:

A/ totally different

B/ slightly different

C/ identical

A/ The most striking differences between Russian and Czech verbal prefixes.

1/ The verbal prefix za- in the meaning "beginning of an action" occurs only in Russian, although even here its occurence is limited to a small group of verbs (e.g. Russian zaplakat' 'begin crying').

2/ The verbal prefix za- in the figurative meaning is not used in Czech (e.g. zamučit'/umučit 'torture, exhaust').

3/ The Russian verbal prefix po- in the meaning "beginning of an action" is translated very often with the Czech verbal prefix roz-, or with different expressions (e.g. poexat'/rozjet se 'depart').

4/ The Czech verbal prefix po- denoting "to do sth. for a longer time" does not occur at all in Russian in this meaning (e.g. Czech poležet si 'lie down for a longer time').

5/ The Russian verbal prefix o- denoting "an action is done carefully, in detail" is equivalent in most cases to the Czech verbal prefix pro- (e.g. obdumat'/promyslet 'think over').

6/ The Russian verbal prefix o- in the meaning "a change of an object or a person" is translated into Czech with various verbal prefixes or with different expressions (e.g. okamenet'/zkamenět 'petrify').

7/ The Russian verbal prefix o-/ob(o)- with the meaning "to be provided with" is expressed by a periphrastic expression in Czech, but the verbal prefix o-/ob(e)- can occur (e.g. ozelenit'/osázet zelení 'plant trees and shrubs').

8/ The lexical group "an action is done badly or in a pejorative sense" is expressed by the verbal prefix o-/ob- in Russian, while in Czech the verbal prefix pře- with the reflexive particle se is used, or, a periphrastic expression is used (e.g. ogovorit'sja/ přeříci se 'make a slip in speaking; obvesit'/ošidit při vážení 'cheat in weighing').

9/ The lexical group "comparison, confrontation" is expressed by the verbal prefix s- in Russian and by a periphrastic expression in Czech (e.g. sverit'/ porovnat prověřením 'collate').

10/ For the semantic group "the result of an action" the Russian verbal prefix s-/so- is used, while the verbal prefix z- is used in Czech (e.g. smjagčit'/ změkčit 'soften').

B/ Slight differences between Russian and Czech verbal prefixes.

1/ The Russian verbal prefix vy- in the figurative meaning does not always appear in the Czech translation (e.g. vypustit' knigu/vydat knihu 'publish a book'; vyletet' iz golovy/zapomenout 'forget').

2/ The semantic group "achievement of the result of an action or also fix or make sth. permanent" is expressed by the Russian verbal prefix za- and za- or u- in Czech (e.g. zapisat'/zapsat 'write down'; zakrepit'/upevnit 'strengthen,fasten').

3/ The semantic group "an action is taken to excess" is expressed by the Russian verbal prefix za- and by the Czech prefix za- in most cases, sometimes po-. In both languages the reflexive particle is used (e.g. zagovorit'sja/zapovídat se 'have a long talk'; zasidet'sja/posedět si (dlouho) 'sit too long').

4/ The Russian verbal prefix za- denoting "an action brought to an end or completion" corresponds to the Czech verbal prefix za- or u- (e.g. zakončit'/ zakončit, ukončit 'finish').

5/ The Russian verbal prefix po- denoting "an action brought to an end" corresponds sometimes to the Czech verbal prefix po-, sometimes to other prefixes, such as vy-, o- (e.g. postroit'/postavit, vystavět 'build up').

6/ The Russian verbal prefix po- denotes "acquisition of some quality, faculty, property or a gradual change of a state or condition". This semantic group is expressed in Czech either by the verbal prefix po- or by z(e)-, which is more frequent, (e.g. pogasnut'/pohasnout 'go out'; pokrasnet'/ zčervenat 'become red').

7/ The semantic group "to annul an action" is expressed by the Russian verbal prefix raz-, corresponding to the Czech verbal prefix roz- or to a periphrastic expression (e.g. razdumat'/rozmyslet se, změnit názor 'change one's mind').

8/ The Russian verbal prefix raz- can also denote 'to open, to discover sth. that was closed, covered, etc.". This semantic group is expressed by the Czech verbal prefix roz-, o-, od(e)-, ot(e)- (e.g. raskryt'/ otkrýt, odhalit 'open, discover'; razvernut'/ rozbalit, rozvinout, otevřít 'unwrap, open').

9/ The Russian verbal prefix o-/ob(o)- in the meaning "removal of the external part of an object" is equivalent to the Czech verbal prefix o-, od-, u- (e.g. očistit'/očistit 'clean up'; oborvat'/utrhnout, odtrhnout 'cut off').

10/ The semantic group "covering the surface of an object" is expressed by the Russian verbal prefix o-/ob(o)- and by the Czech verbal prefix o-/ob(e)-, za-, po- (e.g. obit'/obít 'cover with'; oblednet'/zamrznout 'become covered with ice'; okropit'/pokropit 'water').

11/ The Russian verbal prefix ob- in the meaning "to express predomination " is translated into Czech sometimes with the verbal prefix ob(e)-, but very often also with pře-, před- (e.g. obygrat'/obehrát 'beat/win'; obgonit'/předhonit 'outstrip').

12/ The Russian verbal prefix o-/ob(o)- can denote "an excessive action". This semantic group is expressed in Czech by the verbal prefix o-, pře-, na- (e.g. opit'sja/opít se 'drink too much'; ob"est'sja/přejíst se 'overeat'; obšit'sja/našít na sebe 'make lots of clothes for oneself').

C/ Identical Russian and Czech verbal prefixes

Semantic groups:

1/ "direction of an action from within" with the verbal prefix vy- (e.g. vybežat'/vyběhnout 'run out').

2/ "direction upwards" with the prefix vy- (e.g. vydvignut'/vyzvednout 'raise(up)').

3/ "extraction or removal of an object or its part from its normal position" with the prefix vy- (e.g. vyrvat'/vytrhnout 'extract').

4/ "completion and exhaustion of an action" with the prefix vy- (e.g. vyslužit'/vysloužit 'obtain sth.').

5/ "completeness of an action brought to the necessary stage" with the prefix vy- (e.g. vyplakat'sja/ vyplakat se 'have a good cry').

6/ "fullness, completeness and result of an action" with the prefix vy- (e.g. vylečit'/vyléčit 'cure').

7/ "achievement of a result in spite of difficulties" with the prefix vy- (e.g. vyderžat'/vydržet 'stand, bear').

8/ "direction of an action behind an object" with the prefix za- (e.g. zajti/zajít 'go behind').

9/ "direction of an action beyond some limit or boundary" with the prefix za- (e.g. zagnat'/zahnat 'drive away').

10/ "to close, block, fill" with prefix za- (e.g. zakryt'/zavřít 'close').

11/ "acquisition" with the prefix za- (e.g. zaslužit'/zasloužit (si) 'deserve').

12/ "to drop in somewhere on the way" with the prefix za- (e.g. zajti/zajít 'come to see').

13/ "an action following another action" with the prefix za- (e.g. zapit'/zapít 'wash down with sth.').

14/ "to spread out on the surface" with the prefix po- (e.g. posypat'/posypat 'sprinkle').

15/ "to do something for a short time or to a diminutive (or limited) extent" with the prefix po- (e.g. posidet'/posedět 'sit for a while').

16/ "beginning of an intensive action" with the prefix raz- (Czech roz-) (e.g. razaxat'sja/rozvzdychat se 'break into a sigh').

17/ "achievement of high intensity, growth or excess" with the prefix raz- (Czech roz-)(e.g. rozbolet'sja/ rozbolet se 'become painful').

18/ "a positive solution to a complicated situation" with the prefix raz- (Czech roz-)(e.g. razrešit'/ rozřešit 'settle').

19/ "to spread on the surface into various directions" with the prefix raz- (Czech roz-) (e.g. razmazat'/ rozmazat 'spread over').

20/ "an action signifying division of an object into parts" with the prefix raz- (Czech roz-) (e.g. razbit'/ rozbít 'break').

21/ "an action aimed at different directions" with the prefix raz- (Czech roz-) (e.g. razojtis'/rozejít se 'disperse').

22/ "distribution" with the prefix raz- (Czech roz-) (e.g. razložit'/rozložit 'distribute').

23/ "direction of an action about an object or to pass a person or an object" with the prefix o-/ob- (e.g. obletet'/obletět 'fly around/passing').

24/ "an action is spread over several objects" with the prefix o-/ob- (e.g. obdarit'/obdařit 'present gifts').

25/ "an action in the direction downwards or from the surface down" with the prefix s-/so- (Czech se-) (e.g. sojti/sejít 'go down').

26/ "away, off(from); removal from the surface" with the prefix s-/so- (Czech se-)(e.g. snjat'/sejmout 'take off').

27/ "to put something together" with the prefix s-/so- (Czech se-)(e.g. sobrat'/sebrat 'collect, gather').

In conclusion, it should be stated that the above contrastive analysis is unidirectional, i.e. the Russian system was taken as basic. For a more adequate contrastive study the reverse procedure would also have to be conducted, i.e. the Czech system should be taken as basic if only for control purposes. It is anticipated, however, that the basic conclusions reached in this thesis would not be significantly affected by such a bidirectional contrastive study.

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